which the present Tatkal accommodation occupation is low, at the train originating station.

Looting in North-East Express

2702. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of four armed Government Railway Police (GRP) constables looted dozens of passengers in general compartments of the 2506-down North-East Express between Tundla and Kaurara stations near Etawah recently;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against culprits; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure fearless journey to all the North Eastern Railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 25.10.2005, three train escorting personnel of Government Railway Police (GRP)/Tundla looted the passengers of General Second Class in Coach No.3117-ANF of Train No. 2506 Dn. (North-East Express) in between Tundla and Kaurara Railway Station after beating the passengers. Later on the train was stopped by the affected passengers. 03 GRP personnel were arrested by Civil Police, Sirsaganj and the case transferred to Government Railway Police/Tundla.

All the 03 Government Railway Police personnel have been placed under suspension. A case has been registered against the 03 Government Railway Policy personnel under Crime No. 47/05, under Section 394 IPC at Government Railway Police Station, Tundla, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Shyam Lal Verma, Station House Officer, GRP/Ferozabad has been appointed as the Investigating Officer.

(c) To provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area

to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offencess affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) by amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. This has been done so that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man-power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws.

Safety of local trains in Mumbai

†2703. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether local trains running in Mumbai are safe;

(b) if not, whether Government are working on any new plan to make them better and safe; and

(c) if so, what are the plans and by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Doubling of Railway Line in Tamil Nadu

2704. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make single railway line into double railway line in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of single railway lines which have been converted into double railway line during the current financial year?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.